THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The 11th Law Commission in its 120th Report, which was placed before the Parliament in the year 1988, had, *inter alia,* recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population.

With regard to the strength of Judges in the High Courts, among other factors, institution and pendency of cases are very relevant.

The strength of Subordinate judiciary is determined by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts. The Law Commission's Report has been accordingly forwarded to all the State Governments.

The matter relating to increase in Judge strength has now become sub judice in view of W.P. No. 399/98 alongwith LA. No. 1 filed in the Supreme Court of India.

But the Government is *prima facie* of the view that the number of Judges does require to be increased almost at all levels.

Bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum

733. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to have a bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, by when it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.